

Message Text

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14/66

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /072 W

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R 191409Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6768

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

CINUSNAVEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 10986

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR TAGS DELETE SU ADD UR

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

CINUSNAVEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT SE UR CH XO

SUBJECT: SEYCHELLES LEADER REPORTEDLY LEANING TOWARD PRC

1. IN COURSE OF MID-DECEMBER MEETINGS, GOVERNOR OR SEYCHELLES, COLIN ALLEN, GAVE AMBASSADOR AND EMBOFF FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON AUGUST 1975 VISIT TO PEKING BY FRANCE ALBERT RENE, PRESIDENT OF SEYCHELLES PEOPLES UNITED PARTY (SPUP), WHO IS PRESENTLY MINISTER OF WORKS AND LAND DEVELOPMENT IN PRE-INDEPENDENCE COALITION GOVERNMENT. RENE IS EXPECTED TO BECOME SEYCHELLES' PRIME MINISTER (WITH JAMES MANCHAM OF MAJORITY SDP ASSUMING PRESIDENCY) WHEN SEYCHELLES BECOMES INDEPENDENT

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REPUBLIC IN JUNE 1976.

2. ACCORDING GOVERNOR ALLEN WHO HAS HAD SEVERAL LENGTHY CONVERSATIONS WITH RENE, SPUP LEADER RETURNED FROM 3-DAY PEKING VISIT "DEEPLY IMPRESSED" WITH PRC. CONCERNING BIG-POWER NAVAL INVOLVEMENT IN INDIAN OCEAN, RENE WAS TOLD BY PRC OFFICIALS THAT FIRST PRIORITY OF CHINESE WAS TO LIMIT SOVIET ROLE AND THAT, FOR TIME BEING AT LEAST, THIS MEANT NON-INTERFERENCE WITH U.S. WHOSE PRESENCE IN AREA WAS DESIRABLE.

3. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION RENE CONFIRMED TO US HIS STRONGLY FAVORABLE EVALUATION OF PRC AND HIS LOW OPINION OF SOVIETS WHOM RENE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE KEPT OUT OF SEYCHELLES FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH RENE IS DOMINANT SPUP LEADER, THERE ARE INDICATIONS OF POSSIBLE INTRA-PARTY RIFT AMONG MOSCOW AND PEKIN ADHERENTS. ANOTHER PROMINENT SPUP POLITICIAN, LABOR MINISTER MAXIME FERRARI, RETURNED TO SEYCHELLES FROM SEPTEMBER VISIT TO SOVIET UNION FULL OF HIGH PRAISE AND URGED GOS IN NOVEMBER 28 CABINET MEETING TO ACCEPT SOVIET OFFERS OF SCHOLARSHIPS, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND LARGE-SCALE AGREEMENT AIMED AT DEVELOPING SEYCHELLE'S FISHING POTENTIAL, UNTIL NOW VIRTUALLY UNTAPPED (REPORTED SEPARATELY BY AIRGRAM).

5. IN PAST SEVERAL YEARS, U.S. PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN HAS COME IN FOR STEADY, VIRULENT CRITICISM FROM SPUP WEEKLY, THE PEOPLE. SUCH CRITICISM HAS BEEN NOTABLY ABSENT FROM RECENT ISSUES, WHICH SUGGESTS SPUP IS HEEDING PEKING'S COUNSEL.
MARSHALL

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